

RCP Water Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goals

- Develop sufficient water supplies through environmentally sustainable imports, local conservation and conjunctive use, reclamation and reuse to meet the water demands created by continuing regional growth.
- Achieve water quality improvements through implementation of land use and transportation policies and programs that promote water stewardship and eliminate water impairments and waste in the region.
- Foster comprehensive and collaborative watershed planning within the region that produces waterwise programs and projects with multiple benefits and ecosystem protections, integrating local government planning efforts with those of special districts, environmental advocates and other watershed stakeholders.

Outcomes

- Reduce regional water demand through waterwise land use and local policies that reduce existing per capita water consumption by 25% in 2030.
- Reduce overall stormwater and urban runoff pollution in the region's waterways and water bodies by eliminating all current 303(d) listings by 2030.
- All SCAG member agencies participate in the planning and implementation of integrated watershed management activities throughout the region.

ACTION PLAN

Constrained Actions

WA-1. SCAG shall encourage increasing overall water supplies in the region to support the region's future growth by:

- Securing sustainable and reliable water imports.

- Supporting local projects to recycle and reclaim treated wastewater for irrigation and other outdoor uses.
- Supporting research on new technologies.
- WA-1.1** SCAG shall encourage patterns of urban development and land use that reduce costs on infrastructure construction and make better use of existing facilities.
- WA-1.2** SCAG shall encourage local governments and water purveyors to consider potential climate change hydrology and create systems to manage water for reliable year-around use, and for ecosystem health (storage/balance with fisheries requirement).
- WA-1.3** SCAG shall promote a water conservation ethic throughout the region, featuring the connections between water and energy and between system capacities and timing of water use.
- WA-1.4** SCAG shall encourage local governments and water purveyors to reduce exterior uses of water with the promotion of native landscape plantings and weather-based irrigation systems, supported by water pricing incentives.
- WA-1.5** SCAG shall promote the creation of stable sources of funding for water and environmental stewardship and related infrastructure sustainability (legislative program should support a dedicated revenue source such as (Constitutional Amendment ACA 13 which allows cities to levy stormwater management fees).
- WA-1.6** SCAG shall support the protection and development of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, riparian corridors, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals.
- WA-1.7** SCAG shall encourage water reclamation throughout the region where it is cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate to reduce reliance on imported water and wastewater discharges.
- WA-1.8** SCAG shall encourage local jurisdictions in the adoption of plans and policies that require water wise development within jurisdictional boundaries.
- WA-1.9** SCAG shall support local jurisdictions in the development of plans and policies to redesign/ retrofit existing development and land use to reduce water demand and water pollution. Support the research/ creation of best practices, case studies, and model ordinances for this purpose.
- WA-1.10** SCAG shall support the use of funding and market incentive mechanisms to encourage water wise planning and development, including streamlining/ prioritizing projects that minimize water impacts and water demand.
- WA-1.11** SCAG shall support water providers in developing and implementing tiered pricing structures to discourage unnecessary use and waste of water.

WA-2. Encourage new partnerships, low impact developments and natural spaces that reduce, treat, infiltrate and manage runoff.

- WA-2.1** SCAG shall encourage limiting salts and other contaminants in the region's water in order to reclaim and reuse these water supplies cost-effectively. (imports from Colorado River are increasing in salinity, blending of Colorado River water and Northern California water could assist, treatment of agricultural runoff should be encouraged).
- WA-2.2** SCAG shall encourage the development of comprehensive partnership approaches to remove legacy water impairments rather than today's regulatory command and control approach causing conflict, cost and delay.
- WA-2.3** SCAG shall encourage new low impact developments and natural spaces that reduce, treat, infiltrate and manage runoff caused by storms and impervious surfaces.
- WA-2.4** SCAG shall encourage the minimization of flooding risks in alluvial fan areas of the region.
- WA-2.5** SCAG shall encourage designing and operation of regional transportation facilities that prevent runoff from contaminating the surrounding watershed ecosystem.
- WA-2.6** SCAG shall encourage opportunities for pollution reduction marketing and other market-incentive water quality programs as an alternative to strict command and control regulation.
- WA-2.7** SCAG shall ensure that the planning and development of wastewater treatment facilities be consistent with its most recent population projections. SCAG shall take into account the needs of wastewater treatment agencies, including: building treatment facilities in cost-effective increments of capacity, building well enough in advance to reliably meet unanticipated service and stormwater demands, and providing standby capacity for public safety and environmental protection objectives.
- WA-2.8** SCAG shall encourage the cleanup of contamination in the region's major groundwater aquifers since its water supply is critical to the long-term economic and environmental health of the region. The financing of such cleanups should leverage state and federal resources and minimize significant impacts to the local economy.
- WA-2.9** SCAG shall encourage wastewater treatment plants to have expansion plans, approvals, and financing in place once their facilities reach 80 percent of capacity.

WA-3. Encourage coordination, cooperation, and integrated planning between member agencies and local governments.

- WA-3.1** SCAG shall encourage coordinated watershed management planning at the sub-regional level by (1) providing consistent regional data; (2) serving as a liaison between affected local, state, and federal watershed

management agencies; and (3) ensuring that watershed planning is consistent with other planning objectives (e.g. transportation, air quality, water supply).

- WA-3.2** SCAG shall facilitate information sharing between local water agencies and local jurisdictions, regarding continuing efforts to evaluate future water demands and establish the necessary supply and infrastructure, as documented in their Urban Water Management Plans.
- WA-3.3** SCAG shall facilitate information-sharing about water policy-related regional coordination throughout California and the Colorado River basin that develops and supports sustainable growth policies.
- WA-3.4** SCAG shall involve the region's water supply agencies in planning efforts, in order to make water resource information available to local jurisdictions for use in their land use planning and decisions. Such information includes water supply, water quality, location of recharge areas and groundwater, and other useful information.
- WA-3.5** SCAG shall support the adoption of MOUs and JPAs by local agencies establishing participation in the governance of integrated watershed planning and implementation.
- WA-3.6** SCAG shall encourage the integration of all water stewardship practices within watershed governance frameworks that unify investment incentives among all stakeholders and prioritize resources for those investments with the highest returns and best outcomes.
- WA-3.7** SCAG shall encourage watershed management programs and strategies, recognizing the primary role of local governments in such efforts.
- WA-3.8** SCAG shall provide, as appropriate, legislative support and advocacy of regional water conservation, supply, and water quality projects.
- WA-3.9** SCAG supports only the use of the best available technology including monitoring, air, and water impacts for locating any nuclear waste facility.